



The National Fire Plan

FY 2001 Programs in West Virginia



Overview

The National Fire Plan implements program activities in five key areas across the landscape. These key points are designed to respond to the severe wildfires of 2000, to reduce their impacts on rural communities, and to enhance firefighting capabilities in the future. Estimated National Fire Plan allocations to West Virginia include (\$ in thousands):

Firefighting		Rehab and Restoration	Hazardous Fuel Treatment	Forest Health Projects	Community Assistance				TOTAL
Preparedness	Facilities				State Fire Assistance	Volunteer Fire Assistance	Economic Action Programs	Comm'ty & PrivateLand Fire Assist..	
682	0	0	169	396	465	150	0	0	1,862

Firefighting Resources

Staffing the most efficient organizational level (MEL) to provide prompt initial attack suppression on wildfires.

- Preparedness Organization - Increase **State** resources by 1 engine, and increase resources within the 20-state **Eastern Region** to 125 engines, 17 dozers, 525 preparedness positions and one interagency hotshot crew.
- Workforce Development - Plan for 4.5 new hires in **State**, among 274 new hires planned within the 20-state **Eastern Region** (includes seasonal, temporary, and conversions to permanent).
- Fire Facilities - Invest in Regional facilities planning support, at a cost of approximately \$2 million.

Hazardous Fuel Reduction

Targeting fuel management and reduction on high priority areas, especially wildland-urban interface areas.

- 1,007 acres of hazardous fuels reduction have been documented in the National Database as of July 27, 2001.
- 1,150 acres of fuel reduction treatments are planned.
- Forest Health Management activities protected more than 18,900 acres from invasive species.
- \$250,000 for fuel reduction projects on non-federal forest lands.

Community Assistance

Enhancing community capacity to reduce wildfire risk and expand local economic opportunities.

- Approximately \$115,000 in State Fire Assistance will increase organizational and preparedness skills to assist with firefighting efforts, and \$350,000 will support Hazard Mitigation activities. Grants will be used for training and education, fuel reduction and hazard mitigation, and equipment. An additional \$163,000 is allocated in base program funds.
- \$150,000 in Volunteer Fire Assistance supports training and equipment to meet the needs of a portion of the 450 rural volunteer fire departments in West Virginia. An additional \$53,000 is allocated in base program funds.
- \$985,000 in National Fire Plan Community Assistance will support activities across the 20 northeastern states. Included are:
 - Economic Action Programs to develop and expand markets for wood products from removed fuels; and
 - Community & Private Land Assistance to enhance stewardship planning and fuel management.

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